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SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: Office of Legislative Counsel  
7D35 Hq.

EXTENSION

NO.

STATIN

DATE

10 December 1976

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDO  
7E26 Hq.

2.

STATIN PL DDA  
7D02

4.

5. OGC  
7D01 Hq.

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7. IG  
2E24

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Attached is a revised letter to Chairman Downing, House Select Committee on Assassinations, concerning the moratorium on the destruction of Agency documents. The prior letter to Chairman Downing on this subject dated 23 November, was returned by the Committee as unacceptable. The main revision in the attached allows the Committee a review of the document disposition lists prior to destruction.

STATIN

OLC

Washington, D.C. 20505

3 DEC 1976

Honorable Thomas N. Downing, Chairman  
Select Committee on Assassinations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

[redacted] of my staff, has relayed to me the interest of your Chief Counsel, Mr. Richard Sprague, that records related to the investigation of the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. not be destroyed once the "moratorium" on the destruction of Agency records is lifted. Let me assure you that there is no cause for concern.

The "moratorium" was imposed on the destruction of CIA records in 1975 during the investigation by the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities and will expire on 10 December 1976. At that time regular document destruction will begin in accordance with records control schedules approved by the Archivist of the United States and subject to review by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The Agency's policy in regard to the lifting of the destruction "moratorium" and the application of records control schedules to the orderly disposition of Agency records was published in the Federal Register, a copy of which is enclosed.

It is CIA's policy to fully support investigative bodies of the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial Branch, and we will continue to do so. Once the "moratorium" is lifted, we will destroy no materials which would appear to relate to your investigations or be of interest to your Committee. Further, we will make available for your review the lists for disposition of records prepared for the Archivist at the same time these lists are submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Material designated for destruction in the lists will not be destroyed until your Committee notifies the Agency that it has completed its review, and has no objection. To date, 15 lists have been furnished to the Senate Select Committee and they will be made available for your review immediately.

I assure you that no documents which we are aware of as being related to your investigation will be destroyed.

Sincerely,

~~SIGNED~~

George Bush

Enclosure

Distribution:

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1 - DCI w/encl.

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OLC:PLC:dla (typed 7 December 1976)

STATINTL